to Electricity Boards in undertaking plant betterment programmes, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, training of operation and maintenance personnel and strengthening of Transmission and Distribution System.

(d) and (e) It is a fact that an improvement in plant load factor could significantly reduce the requirement for investment in additional generation capacity and this aspect is taken into account by the Planning Commission while fixing the target/provision for capacity addition in a particular plan period. The Government have instituted incentive schemes for the achievement, inter alia, of better plant load factor and with the same end in view have also undertaken a comprehensive programme of renovation and modernisation of old thermal plants.

Foreign investors' demand for special railway service and coal with low ash content

203. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors have been invited in power generation in the private sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such investors are demanding special railway services and coal with a low ash content;

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to meet these and other demands of foreign investors and on what conditions; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministries of Coal and Railways are willing to enter into legally enforceable agreements for supply and transportation of coal to private sector power projects. The detailed terms and conditions would be finalised between the parties entering into the agreements.

Completion of power projects of Tamil Nadu

204. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names and number of ongoing power projects in Tamil Nadu alongwith their estimated capacity;

(b) what target has been fixed for the completion of these projects;

(c) what progress have been made in completion of these projects; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) The following 6 power projects, two thermal and four hydel, are currently under execution in Tamil Nadu:

Sl. No.	Name	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule	Status
1.	North Madras TPS . .	3×210	1994-95	Erection of boiler material in progress. Boiler hyd. test conducted. TG erection commenced.
2.	Basin Bridge TPS . . .	4×30	1994-95	Letter of Intent placed on M/s Sumitomo of Japan & BHEL. OECF approval awaited.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Lower Bhavani RBC. . .	2×4	1995-96	Location of power house fixed Price bid for procurement c gen. equipment is under eva luation.
4.	Sathanur HEP	1×7.5	1995-96	Action for land acquisition an evaluation of price bid ir progress.
5.	Pykara Ultimate HEP . .	3×50	1997-99	Major infrastructural work completed tenders for tunn works under finalisation. Pa of land acquisition in litigation.
6.	Parsons' Valley HEP. . .	1×30	IX Plan	Forest clearance received fron MOEF. Topographic survey for tunnel completed.

Financial health of SEBs responsible for power failure

205. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial health of the State Electricity Boards are mainly responsible for the power failure in the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to ameliorate the situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. Power failures are caused by low voltage inadequate reactive compensation and/or overdrawal by the constituent States, low frequency due to excessive loads, inadequacy of transmission system and shunt capacitors, malfunctioning of protective relays, maloperation due to human error such as opening of isolator on load, equipment failure such as failure of jumpers, bursting of circuit breaker, failure of voltage transformers etc. and lack of communication and modern load despatch facilities. Improved financial performance may also help over come some of these problems.

(b) To ameliorate the situation, the following measures have been taken:—

1. Adherance to grid discipline by th constituents to match load wit available generation.

2. Timely implementation of trans mission system lements.

3. Installation of shunt capacitors.

4. Maintenance and upkeep of elec trical equipments protective relay system.

5. Augmentation of load despatcl and communication facilities.

6. Appropriate technical measures t localise the faults such as islanding schemes, automatic under-frequency load shedding to arrest fast decay of frequency, installation of stati var compensators and powe system stabilisers to arrest voltag decay in the event of a contingency

Revamping the functions of SEBs

206. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to strip the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) from distribution and billing functions and restrict their services upto power generation only as reported in the Financial Exp. dated 8.7.1993;